

EDITORIAL

A different feeling at Thanksgiving

This year's Thanksgiving holiday will have an uneasy tinge to it for many people. Some have been directly affected by the horrendous tragedy that struck on September 11, the rest of us have felt it in more subtle ways, whether as a vague sense of uneasiness or stark fear. But the worst of times often bring out the best in people, and that certainly has been the case in this instance, with millions of Americans opening their hearts and pocketbooks to speed relief to families of victims at the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

Now it's time to step back, put events in perspective, enjoy special time with our loved ones, and recognize the depth of our good fortune.

When the first Thanksgiving was celebrated, the early colonists in what would become Massachusetts had lost more than half their companions in a harsh winter, for which they were woefully unprepared. They lacked food, clothing and appropriate shelter for the frigid conditions, and could easily have been driven back across the Atlantic had it not been for the kindness of local Indians. Squanto and Samoset, who had learned English while captives of an earlier English fleet, taught the surviving colonists to plant corn and other crops, which flourished through the next summer, providing a bountiful harvest. Most of the colonists were profoundly religious, and gave their thanks to God, although they surely expressed gratitude that day to their earthly saviors as well.

As inheritors of the Pilgrims' celebration, we have the opportunity to help others in the way the native Americans helped the newcomers. Sometimes that assistance comes in unlikely form, such as the current campaign against terrorists in Afghanistan, in which blood must be spilled in order to reach a desirable end. If we then put equal effort into rebuilding that shattered nation, and showing its people how to live in peace and freedom, we will have carried on the tradition that began on the New England shore so long ago.

Most of us won't be called to take part in action on foreign soil, and our expression of American principles may seem more modest; perhaps in a donation to a food bank, or a visit to a nursing home. But it is the accumulative value of millions of individual acts of kindness and charity that define our society as one of the most generous in history.

This Thanksgiving will feel different, but as we pause for the 380th time to give thanks and reflect on our good fortune, we must reaffirm the values that have brought us to this point, and will carry us through any difficulty.

Publisher's Notebook

Ron Bartizek



(Phony Southern accent) I was talkin' to my good friend Tom the other day, and remarked about his new, portly dimensions. "You were always in such good shape, Tom," I said. "Whazzup with the new look?"

He seemed annoyed at the question. "I wish I knew," he snapped. "Ever since the end of summer they've been filling up the feed trough three times a day. And the stuff they're puttin' in there seems like it's got andro in it, for gosh sake. No matter how much I run around the yard, I seem to look more like Mark McGwire every day."

The pen, I noted, had far less room for jogging because, like Tom, all the other inmates had put on considerable poundage. "You're right about that," Tom said, a note of resignation in his voice. "Time was, a couple hundred of us could fit in one corner; now it seems we each take up enough space for a refrigerator . . . speaking of which, I'm kinda hungry." With that, he headed off for a quick snack.

When he returned, he looked troubled. "I don't know what's going on, but lately there's been a steady stream of tourists on the other side of the fence," he said. "They look us over like we're a sideshow at the circus, pointing and all. It gives me the willies."

I didn't have the heart to tell him the truth. "Well, Tom," I said, "you are a pretty fine example of turkeyflesh. Maybe the WWF is searching out new talent. Somebody may be looking to put you up on a plate . . . I mean pedestal, for all the world to see."

Tom thought a moment, then nodded his head. "You may be right," he said with a sigh of relief. "They took a cousin of mine about this time last year; told him he was going to a place a lot of people would appreciate his good taste. Funny, though, he said he'd write, but I never hear from him."

Make a note:

Our e-mail address is now

dallaspost@leader.net

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P.O. BOX 366, DALLAS, TX 75201 • 570-675-5211

Ronald Bartizek
GENERAL MANAGER

Heather B. Jones
REPORTER

Brenda McDonough
ADVERTISING ACCT. EXEC.

Ruth Proietto
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Darlene Sorber
OFFICE MANAGER

Ron and Charlotte Bartizek
PUBLISHERS EMERITUS

Stephen Peterson
PRESIDENT & CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
1-800-427-8649



Longing to head out on the water. Photo by Ron Bartizek.



Carol King

Holiday schedules The library will be closed on Thanksgiving Day. A very happy holiday to all!

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Holiday Open House at the library on Tuesday, Dec. 18, and Wednesday, Dec. 19, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The library will be closed Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 24 and 25; and Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.



70 Years Ago - November 20, 1931

CANADIAN POLICE TO ENTERTAIN AT HIMMLER THEATRE

The Royal Northwest Mounted Police will make its appearance on the stage of the Himmler Theatre in person in conjunction with the talking picture, "Arizona Terror" starring Ken Maynard. The Northwest Mounted Police Company will explain the workings of this force.

With a record of three victories and five defeats to its credit, Dallas Borough School football team will play its last game of the season on the home field with Clark's Summit High School as the opponent. Coach Wormley is coach for Dallas.

At the Himmler Theatre some of the movies that played: Bad Girl, with Sallay Eilers and James Dunn; Arizona Terror, with Ken Maynard and also added attraction Royal Northwest Mounted Police in person on the stage; Fifty Fathoms Deep, with Jack Holt; and Penrod and Sam, with Leon Janney and Zazu Pitts.

60 Years Ago - November 21, 1941

LEHMAN FAVORED IN GRID CLASSIC

Championship of the Back Mountain region hinges on the outcome of the Kingston Township-Lehman football classic at

Last chance for fruit orders

Citrus fruit and cheesecake sale:

If you missed Monday's deadline for ordering fruit and/or cheesecake, you may still put in your order today. It must be received at the front desk no later than 5 p.m. Please note on your calendar the dates and times for picking up your orders: Friday, December 7, from 7-9 p.m.; and Saturday, December 8, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a special note that cheesecakes must be picked up on Friday in order to assure the highest quality.

Slightly Read Bookshop: Because the library's very able Ruth Tetschner has been elected to the commission to study the feasibility of Home Rule in Luzerne County, she has turned over the

management of the bookshop to volunteer Fred Krohle. The bookshop will be closed on Saturday, November 24.

Librarian's report: Martha Butler and Janet Bauman attended informative meetings with other Luzerne County librarians during the month of October.

Nina Santarelli, Amy Sperling, Stephanie Wallace, Mallory Kern, and Nicole Madden have been helping to shelve books in the Children's Room as part of their Community Service for church and school.

On October 30th, Den 5-2, Pack 281, consisting of 9 boys, visited the library to work on their Communication Badge with Mrs. Rudolph.

Statistics for October: total circulation, 6,997; books added, 283; new borrowers, 74; and active borrowers, 13,970.

Lost and found: Martha Butler suggests that anyone who may have lost an object at the library check the lost and found box at the front desk. Eyeglasses, children's mittens and other apparel, and photographs are among the items that haven't been claimed.

New display: Meryl Davis of Harveys Lake has loaned to the library a number of fine china objects which she has collected from the British Isles. The demitasse cups and saucers and other pieces are products of Wedgewood, Royal Doulton, Royal Albert, and Staffordshire.

creative Potato Growers, with headquarters in Allentown.

Willard Hugh Prynne, grandson of Mrs. Daisy Prynne, Carverton, graduated from United States Naval Dental Technicians School, completing his course at Great Lakes.

40 Years Ago - November 21, 1961

METHODIST CHURCH BURNS MORTGAGE AT TRADITIONAL CEREMONIES AT NOXEN

Leslie Kocher, chairman of the building committee which paid off the mortgage for improvements to the sanctuary over a period of seven years in stead of the originally specified ten, touched a match to the mortgage, held on a metal tray by Raymond Gunton, one of the older members of the congregation.

Marine Pvt. John E. Coolbaugh, son of Mrs. and Mrs. Wilbur D. Coolbaugh, Dallas is scheduled to complete recruit training at the marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island S. C.

The first home to be completely evacuated and turned over to the Department of Highways along the right of way of the new State Highway in Trucksville is that of Mrs. Elizabeth Billings. Within a few days the State will make payment of Mrs. Billings.

30 Years Ago - November 23, 1971

CHILD DAY CARE CENTER OPENS IN BACK MOUNTAIN

The "new look" in child care services has reached the Back Mountain. The program is a child day care center established at the Dallas United Methodist Church. Back Mountain resident Mary Segal is supervisor at the

Dallas center.

Pvt. James F. McCabe, son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. McCabe, Shavertown, recently completed eight weeks of basic training at Ft. Jackson, S. C.

In the Back Mountain, the big game between Dallas and Lake-Lehman Senior High Schools will be played. The Mountaineers of Dallas have of possession of the Old Shoe, having won it back from Lake-Lehman with a 24-14 victory last season. The Old Shoe Trophy will come out of its special place at Dallas Senior High School and will be offered to the winner.

20 Years Ago - November 18, 1981

PEELER GAINS EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

Thomas Lamar Peeler, Trucksville received the highest rank in Boy Scouts, the Eagle Scout Award, during a presentation at the Westmoreland Club. A junior at Wyoming Seminary, Tom is a member of Troop 155 in Trucksville.

Plans for a 40 x 48 addition to St. Frances X. Cabrini R.C. Church at Carverton are nearing completion. The new addition, according to estimates, will cost approximately \$200,000 and ground breaking will take place soon. Rev. Father Hugh McGroarty, is pastor.

Beth Scott, daughter of Dr. Durelle T. Scott and Mrs. Genie Scott, had a watercolor exhibit at the main office of First Eastern Bank, Wilkes-Barre. Beth had won several awards for her art work. These include a 'Best of Show' and first place in Mixed Media at the 1981 Luzerne County Fall Fair.

Are you opinionated?

The Dallas Post is always pleased to hear from good columnists. If you have what it takes, we guarantee you a regular forum to write whatever you choose. (Unless it's libelous or tasteless, of course.) If you are the one person in 1,000 who can express ideas clearly and forcefully, send The Post a letter telling why you want to be a columnist. Mail it to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas, PA 18612, or drop it off at our office at 607 Main Road, Dallas (across from Offset Paperback).